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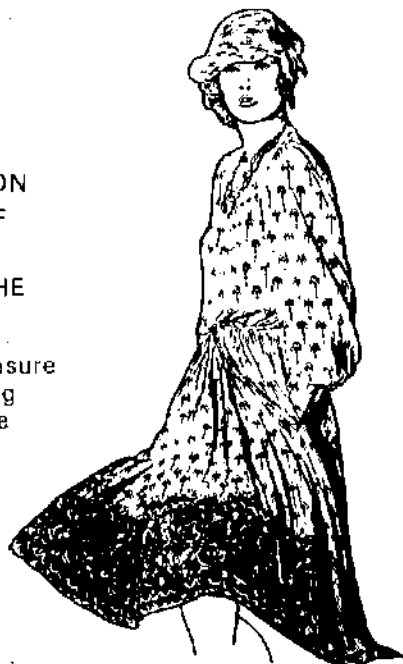
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Vol. 5 No. 8

# Gardner Centre Theatre

February 10, 11, 13 & 14, 1981

## MONSTROUS REGIMENT

presents

# MOURNING PICTURES

by Honor Moore

We respectfully remind patrons that smoking is not permitted in the auditorium and the use of cameras and tape recorders is absolutely forbidden.  
PATRONS WISHING TO LEAVE THE AUDITORIUM DURING A PERFORMANCE ARE ASKED TO USE THE REAR EXITS ONLY.  
The Gardner Centre receives financial assistance from the Arts Council of Great Britain and South East Arts Association.

# MONSTROUS REGIMENT

Monstrous Regiment is a collective of feminist theatre workers. Since 1976 they have presented a wide variety of plays, cabarets, and shows placing women's experience — past, present, and future — at the centre of the stage. They have developed an entertaining, challenging style of theatre well-suited to the main stages of our major playhouses, not least because of their music, which is an essential part of most of their work.

The British Premiere Season, in which *Mourning Pictures* is the third production, marks a new departure for the company. Until now Monstrous Regiment has performed specially commissioned plays and cabarets; British Premieres is a series of unusual, exciting and innovative plays from abroad.

The other productions are:

'**Dialogue Between a Prostitute and One of her Clients**' by Dacia Maraini (Italy) Autumn 1980 and Spring 1981. A provocative two-hander with audience discussion. 'Quite extraordinary . . . a skilful and very relaxed translation . . . alert and intelligent performances . . . to describe the show as thought provoking would sound like a Victorian understatement'.

*Spare Rib.*

'**SHAKESPEARE'S SISTER**' based on the original production by Theatre de l'Aquarium (France) I.C.A. London, December 1980 and touring 1981.

A trip through the refrigerators of Europe.

'Superb . . . it is a joy to see how Monstrous Regiment exploit surrealist and expressionist techniques and give them a blazing theatrical life and function . . . the cumulative impact in this rapier-sharp production is devastating'.

*The Guardian.*

'Beautifully staged . . . stunning theatrical punch'.

*New Standard.*

'Mourning Pictures' marks Monstrous Regiment's fifth visit to the Gardner Centre

For information about the Company contact Gus Garside, 4 Elder Street, London, E.1. 6BT.

MONSTROUS REGIMENT receives financial assistance from the Arts Council of Great Britain.

# MONSTROUS REGIMENT

presents

## "MOURNING PICTURES"

by Honor Moore

Abigail

Doctors Rumbach, Cassidy,  
Berryman and Potter

Maggie

Margaret

Philip

David

Musicians

CHRIS BOWLER

DAVID BRADFORD

AVIVA GOLDKORN

GILLIAN HANNA

STEPHEN LEY

JOHN SLADE

JOSEFINA CUPIDE  
TONY HAYNES

Directed by PENNY CHERNS

Designed by GEMMA JACKSON

Music Composed by TONY HAYNES

Technical Team

Administrator

Poster Design

Printing by

Sheryl Crown, Veronica Wood

Gus Garside

Claudine Meissner

E. Hallett & Co.

The action takes place in Connecticut, New York and Washington, D.C.

PART 1 March - May

PART 2 June - September

*There will be one interval of Fifteen minutes*

The mourning picture, which usually showed a gravestone with the survivors grieving beside it, was an art form popular in the early nineteenth century, especially in New England. Young women stitched or painted them as gifts for the bereaved family.

This evening's  
entertainment...



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SUSSEX BITTER  
ON SALE IN THE THEATRE BAR

I had no sense of life or death—my life or my death. The waiting period before the surgery — except the knowledge that help would not come like a held hand. The living and dying had to be done alone. I rode these days of waiting like a warrior assuming obsession with triumph would keep him from defeat. Finally there is the blackout of surgery followed by brief visions of Paul and the children riding the puffs of my opiated consciousness. A new life began for my body, nightgowned, stitched, and drugged. It lay on the bed docilely awaiting the needles, the surgeon's finger probings, and my own dulled exploration. Visitors in their plump chairs, phone calls, my cabinet television, these distractions of the life that threatens to elude me became a backdrop for a more private journey.

*Jenny Moore  
Spring 1973*

Ladies and gentlemen, my mother is dying. You say 'everyone's mother dies'.

I bow to you, smile. Ladies, gentlemen,  
My mother is dying. She has cancer. You say many people die of cancer. I scratch my head. Gentle ladies, gentle

men, my mother has cancer, and, short of some miracle, will die. You say 'This has

happened many times before'. You say 'Death is something which repeats itself'. I bow.

Ladies and gentlemen, my mother has cancer all through her. She will die unless there's a miracle. You shrug. You gave up religion

years ago, Marxism too. You don't believe in anything. I step forward. My mother

is dying. I don't believe in miracles. Ladies and gentlemen, one last time: My mother's dying. I haven't got another.

*Honor Moore*

You do not die from being born, nor from having lived, nor from old age. You die from something. The knowledge that because of her age my mother's life must soon come to an end did not lessen the horrible surprise: she had sarcoma. Cancer, thrombosis, pneumonia: it is as violent and unforeseen as an engine stopping in the middle of the sky. My mother encouraged one to be optimistic when, crippled with arthritis and dying, she asserted the infinite value of each instant; but her vain tenaciousness also ripped and tore the reassuring curtain of everyday triviality. There is no such thing as a natural death: nothing that happens to a person is ever natural, since their presence calls the world into question. All men must die: but for every man his death is an accident and, even if he knows it and consents to it, an unjustifiable violation.

*Simone de Beauvoir  
'A Very Easy Death'*

## MONSTROUS REGIMENT

**HONOR MOORE** began writing full time in 1970, since which time her poetry has been widely published in American magazines and anthologies. She frequently gives readings of her work, and lectures, and some of her poems have been recorded. She regularly contributes articles and reviews to Ms magazine, and has been involved in several women's writing workshops. She now lives in New York.

In 1973 when she was 27, her mother, Jenny, died of cancer of the colon and liver. Jenny Moore had spent most of the last thirty years of her life bringing up her nine children. In 1968 she wrote *The People on Second Street*, a book about the family's eight year residence in a Jersey City slum church. Now, at fifty, she was just becoming able to devote more time to her writing when cancer was diagnosed. During the last six months of Jenny's life Honor Moore, unable to write herself, kept a journal. This was to become the basis for *Mourning Pictures*, her first play.

The play was first performed in 1974 at the Lennox Arts Centre in Massachusetts. It subsequently went to the Lyceum Theatre on Broadway and has had various other productions. Monstrous Regiment's production of *Mourning Pictures* is the play's British premiere.

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BRON GRILLO  
ALFRED GLEASON  
PAUL SAUNDERS  
MARGARET HALL  
DICK BRAMLEY  
MARTIN JULIAN  
JOAN ASKEW  
STAN HILDRED  
BETTY SAWYER  
PHYLLIS MANN



# Forthcoming Attractions

A Diary of Events giving full details of our Spring Season is available in the foyer

## THEATRE

Feb 23 & 24

MAJOR ROAD THEATRE COMPANY present

### HURLING DAYS by Graham Devlin

Commemorating the 600th anniversary of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381

Feb 26 - 28

### THE MOVING PICTURE MIME SHOW

"... not to be missed!" — *The Guardian*

"Unusual, original and very funny..." — *The Times*

March 3 - 7

THE OXFORD PLAYHOUSE COMPANY present

### NO END OF BLAME a new play by Howard Barker

## MUSIC

Feb 12

In association with the JAZZ CENTRE SOCIETY and South East Arts

### BOBBY WELLINS QUARTET

Feb 22

### CHILDREN'S CONCERT

### MUSIC FOR A MEDIAEVAL CASTLE

presented by Michael and Doreen Muskett who specialise in introducing children to early music.

Feb 25

### CHARLES ROSEN — piano

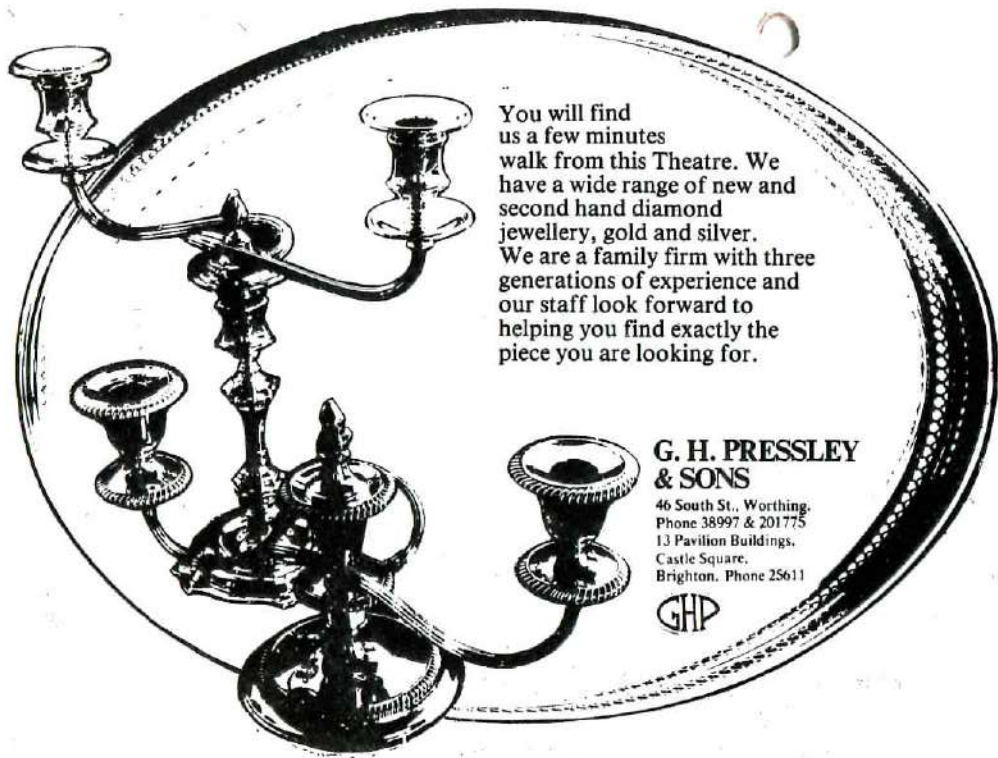
## GALLERY

March 4 - 28

### PAUL NASH: NICK BARNES: LEWIS AMBLER

### PHOTOGRAPHS

FOYER: Jonathan Brown — drawings



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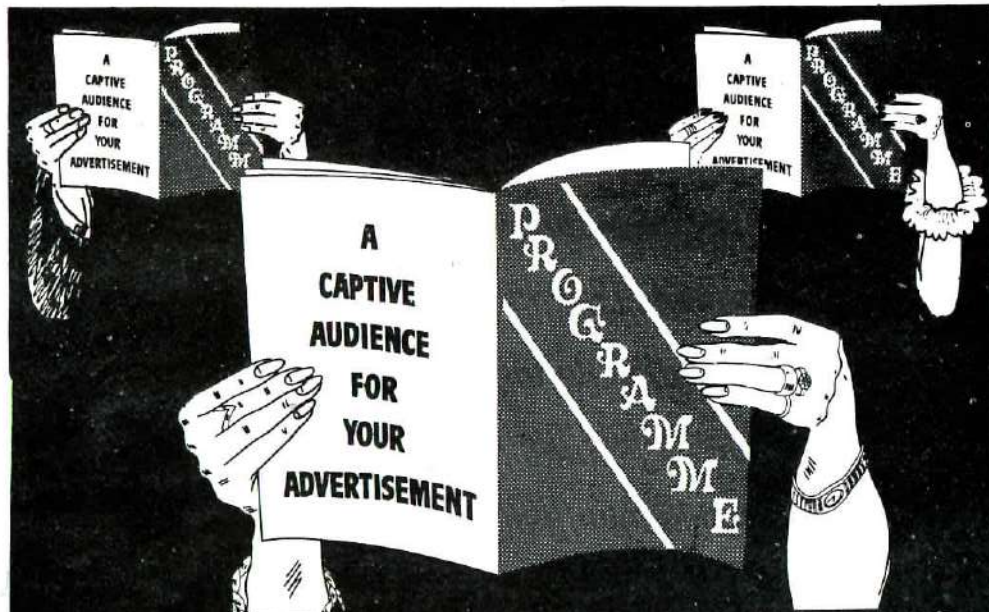
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**Programme**



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## MONSTROUS REGIMENT

# MOURNING PICTURES

The mourning picture, which usually showed a gravestone with the survivors grieving beside it, was an art-form popular in the early nineteenth century, especially in New England. Young women stitched or painted them as gifts for the bereaved family.

Abigail	Chris Bowler
Doctors: Rumbach, Cassidy, Berryman and Potter	David Bradford
Maggie	Aviva Goldkorn
Margaret	Gillian Hanna
Philip	Stephen Ley
David	John Slade
Musicians	Josefina Cupido Tony Haynes

Directed by Penny Cherns

Designed by Gemma Jackson

Music Composed by Tony Haynes

Technical Team	Sheryl Crown Veronica Wood
Administrator	Gus Garside
Poster Design	Claudine Meissner
Printing	E. Hallett & Co. Ltd.
Set Construction	Miraculous Engineering

Our grateful thanks to Bettina Janic

The action takes place in Connecticut, New York  
and Washington, D.C.

Part I March through May

Part II June through September

There will be one interval of fifteen minutes.

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— Simone de Beauvoir: 'A Very Easy Death'

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— The Guardian

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— New Standard

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### ARTS COUNCIL CUTBACKS

In December forty-one arts organisations had their Arts Council grants withdrawn and many more had their grants significantly decreased. All this occurred without warning, right of appeal or any clear indication as to why these specific organisations had been chosen.

Monstrous Regiment believe that the manner in which these cuts were made was irresponsible and to the detriment of the arts in Great Britain. We now operate in a climate of great uncertainty, making future planning a high risk; we do not know the criteria used in making the cuts and thus do not know if we ourselves will be on the next list or not . . . obviously this is a hindrance to our work and indeed the work of any arts organisation.

We are pressing for a clear statement on the cuts and a more open and responsible relationship between the Arts Council, the public and arts organisations.

We urge you to pick up a copy of the ARTS FIGHTBACK fact sheet available in the foyer.